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**BANKRUPT NATION.**

The word "graft" is a too frequent and too common expression. It is often meaningless and applies frequently to anyone, who by untiring efforts is endeavoring to secure a competency for himself. To hear some of the Astoria rounders talk, every man in the city and county is a grafter—except themselves and they are the personification of all that is pure and holy. As a rule a man who is constantly talking about grafting is not to be trusted, that is, he will bear watching. What really is meant by grafting is a man who holds a public trust and diverts the funds of the people to his own use. There is no such word as "graft" in the dictionary with the application usually meant of it. An illustration of a grafter is Castro, the dictator of Venezuela.

Though the world has been astonished at the arrogance and supreme impudence of the half-caste who for the moment is the most picturesque individual in a land of political surprises, little is known of his antecedents, the life and character of the president of the Venezuelan republic. A mestizo of mixed Indian and negro blood; a common frontier store-keeper and cattleman 15 years ago; a follower of Andueza Palacio in the revolution of 1892, a fugitive in 1894, a deputy by appointment from President Andrade in 1898, the leader of a revolution against Andrade in 1899, in October, 1899, a victor and self-proclaimed dictator of Venezuela, and since then the most successful and unscrupulous of political leaders. This in brief is the history of Castro.

During his six years of successes he has enriched himself while his country has become impoverished in its treasury. While Venezuela has been passing through bankruptcy, Castro has been taking over concessions from himself as the government to himself as Castro, the individual. He has amassed money, though Venezuela has been unable to pay her just debts. By his acts of his own creatures in congress he has amended the constitution so that he is perpetuated in power. He has driven out foreign capital from his own country, and wherever he could he has usurped the foreigner's concessions, works and vested rights.

With his treatment of Venezuela and the Venezuelans, the world has no concern. His dictatorship, so far as it pertains to his own country, is a mere scandal; a matter that concerns Venezuela and not the world. His assumption that Castro is the state will sooner or later be contested by some other leader of ambitions, and settled as such matters have always been settled in South America. But he will not much longer infringe upon the common law of nations, nor treat nor treat with arrogance the rights of other powers. If he continues on his present course, it is plain that he will be called to account. His personality has contributed to the gayety of nations to some extent. But he takes himself seriously, thinks that he is a strategist of high order, as great as Caesar, Napoleon, Moltke and the superior of Washington. It is the estimate that he places upon himself that makes him dangerous, for by some overt act he may endanger international peace. To this country particularly is Castro a vexing problem. It is plain that he will have to brought to terms, and it is evident that President Roosevelt is the man that will accomplish it.

**TOOTH BRUSH AND MICROBES.**

Science is out with a new mandate, says the Seattle P. I. To be safe from microbes we must not only boil the water, sterilize the milk, refuse to wear beads and refrain from kissing our wives, sweethearts and babies; but we must boil the tooth brush. According to a college professor—and Chicago professors are authority on microbes, having discovered more during the past year than was ever discovered since Adam and Eve filed a pre-emption on the Garden of Eden—the mouth teems with microbes. There are also a few hundred billion of other "pathogenic micro-organisms." The tooth brush is made of sharp bristles to penetrate the mucous membranes, and in go a host of

hungry germs to carry destruction to human organism.

The doctor issues a similar warning against the use of the shaving brush, though the whiskers, too "teem with microbes." So it goes. There is danger if you do and danger if you don't. The man who invented microbes discovered a quarry for humanity. To be safe, you must be boiled until you are sterilized. And then you must boil the apparatus you get boiled in. The pneumococci will catch you if you don't watch out.

Years ago, when some of us older people of Astoria were boys, no one ever heard of microbes. People were just as healthy then as now. No one ever heard of appendicitis in those good old days. People may have had something similar to it, but grandma or mother always had a home remedy which was very effective and you seldom heard of anyone dying, in fact, it is doubtful if there was any appendix in any of the people in those days. It is a new invention of the doctors, to make a slaughter house out of a hospital or family residence. It wasn't necessary to dissect a person troubled with in-growing toe nails, or cut off a limb to remove a wart or mole. If what the Chicago college professors say about microbes is true, the whole human system is one teeming mass of microbes. We don't believe there is a word of truth in it. They exist and propagate in the various colleges of Chicago and in the imaginative minds of college professors who are trying to find employment for the thousands of young doctors that are being turned loose on the public from those institutions to scare people to run for a doctor for imaginary ailments which do not exist.

**NOT ENTIRELY DRY.**

"The local option law being in force at Corvallis," says the Salem Statesman, "there is a great deal of talk about 'blind pigs' and so on, but the latest comes from the Oregon Agricultural college, and it can be truthfully said that the entire town is not wholly 'dry.' Last fall the institution experimented with the preserving of sweet cider and bottles of it were opened recently which developed the fact that the cider was as sweet and wholesome as when it came from the press. The simple method of treating cider in vogue at the college makes it within the power of anybody to preserve it for future use at very low expense. There ought to be a great demand for apples at Corvallis this coming fall.

**NEWSPAPER AND COURT.**

Whenever there is a "smutty" case being tried in court, the court room is usually crowded by men and women anxious to listen to the revolting testimony. If these same people read the testimony published in a newspaper, they would raise their hands in holy horror and discontinue their paper. An illustration of this is a case recently tried at Dallas. According to the Polk County Observer, Rev. J. A. Means of Buena Vista brought suit against William McLane for \$5000 damages for defamation of character. McLane was charged with having circulated a story to the effect that the minister had been seen in a compromising position with a Mrs. Winn. Notwithstanding the fact that the testimony was of a sensational character, the court room was crowded throughout the trial.

**TAKING THE CENSUS.**

Work of taking the census in various sections of the state is progressing. In Clatsop county it will be completed this week. In Marion county they have completed enumerating 2500 people in the penitentiary, asylum and reform school and will start in on the resident population this week. In Multnomah county a large proportion of the census will be taken on June 1 when the Lewis and Clark fair opens, as there will probably be more people in Portland that day than on any other one day of the fair.

**OUT OF THE ORDINARY.**

**Epitomes of Anecdotes and Incidents With Comments by a Layman.**

"Threatens to Make Corpses of Dead Men" is a head line in the Portland Journal. That ought to be a cinch.

Carrie Nation says that she is going to Oklahoma, where they need her. The tornado got there first.

After having been hit in the head by one or two of them, the average Chicago citizen is of the opinion that a brick pavement is hardly up to date.

Two Portland robbers held up a minister robbing him of \$25, and they didn't ask where he got it either.

There are a lot of people in Astoria for whom the alarm clock and the curfew ring about the same time.

How can an evangelist expect anyone to become thoroughly imbued with a fear of Tophet when the weather feels like it had been left over from December.

"However the snow storm in Montana cannot cover all the corruption in that state.—Tacoma News. Tacoma ought to be an authority on the

covering up of corruption.—Butte Inter Mountain.

A Portland boy has been offered \$50,000 if he will stay sober three years. If he does he can cheer himself with the reflection that he need never sober up after the end of the three years.

If a meteor really had crossed Tacoma at 10 p. m. nobody would have seen it. Everybody knows that Tacoma goes to bed when the chickens do. The meteor story is preposterous.

Three hundred and seventy-eight persons in Portland have voted that their favorite hymn is "Heaven Is My Home." That ought to be a favorite hymn with people who do not happen to have the good fortune to possess a home on earth.

The high school of Albany, Ore., is preparing an exhibit of that city's fossils at the Lewis and Clark fair. It is needless to say that the display will be exceedingly large.

According to the Brooklyn Life a small boy asked his father for a good book to read, and the father recommended the Bible. But the boy said he wanted a book with fairy tales. The old man said the Bible would meet his requirements in that direction. Then the boy said he wanted a book that had lots of killing and fighting in it. The old man again told him to stick to the Bible, as he would find all kinds of stories in the book. The old man has evidently read his Bible well.

**PERSONAL MENTION.**

- A. V. Reeves of Nasel was in the city yesterday.
- Tim Corcoran of Jewell was in the city yesterday.
- C. M. Cellar spent yesterday in Portland on business.
- H. A. Johnson of Chicago spent yesterday in Astoria.
- Sam Miller of Seaside was a visitor in Astoria yesterday.
- Capt. Bailey went to Portland yesterday on business.
- F. J. Mahan of Seattle is visiting friends in the city.
- C. P. Heninger of San Francisco was in the city yesterday.



**Spring Clearance Sale of Shirt Waist Suits.**

**SHIRT WAIST SUITS** made of a good quality changeable silk. Several colors to choose from. Regular, \$12.  
Special ..... \$9 60

**SHIRT WAIST SUITS** of excellent quality figured silk, pattern being a broken stripe, dainty design, in blue, brown, green and gray. Regular, \$14.  
Special ..... \$11 20

**SAME STYLE SUITS** of a better grade of material. Regular, \$18.  
Special ..... \$14 40

**SHIRT WAIST SUIT**, made of fine, heavy quality changeable silk in various colors, well finished. Regular, \$22.  
Special ..... \$17 60

We are pressed for room. The season is still before us. But we will give you an opportunity. Spring and summer shapes of street hats, at 50 per cent reduction. Shapes worth 62½ cents to \$1.25 will be sold for half price. No need to wait until July.

For this week we continue the 10 per cent reduction on Ladies' Underwear. Only a few values are mentioned below. Step in and see the others. A grand May opportunity.

**CORSET COVER**, Made of Long Cloth, with three insertions of Valenciennes lace and finished with Valenciennes edging. Regular price 65c. This week, each..... 38c

**DRAWERS**, Made of Cambric trimmed with tucks, embroidered insertion and edging. Regular 62c This week, each..... 56c



Made of Good Quality Long Cloth heavy lace flounce. Regular \$1.00. This week, each..... 90c

**M. S. COPELAND & CO.**  
467 Commercial Street.

# HARMONY

in dress can only be obtained by the "timely tips" of those who have devoted years of careful study to the clothing trade for Men and Boys. You need not worry about the quality or correctness of anything you buy here in the way of clothing. The manufacturers guarantee and ours go with everything you buy.



## YOUNG MEN

if you are not in harmony with your clothes you should call on us and we will put you in tune with neat, snappy suits at

# \$17.50

Of course we can suit you to the tune of \$10.00 to \$30.00 per suit but we would especially call your attention to our single and double breasted "Mannish Suits" at Seventeen Dollars and Fifty Cents.

# P. A. STOKES

Keeps a Dressy Shop for Dressy People.



- E. Johnson of Pullman, Wash. was in the city yesterday.
- H. Hawkins of Portland registered at the Occident yesterday.
- Lee Herring went up the river last evening on a business trip.
- W. J. Ingalls of Lewis and Clark was in the city yesterday.
- J. C. Zan of Portland was in the city yesterday on business.
- J. R. Burke and wife of Cathlamet were in the city yesterday.
- G. R. Engle of Kansas City registered at the Occident yesterday.
- Julius Jensen of Chinook visited friends in Astoria yesterday.
- Mrs. L. A. Loomis of Ilwaco has been visiting friends in Astoria.
- H. S. McGowan came over from the cannery yesterday on business.
- Jos. W. Parks of Aberdeen was in the city yesterday on business.
- L. J. Marks of San Francisco registered at the Parker yesterday.
- P. McCann, a prominent citizen of Seaside, was in the city yesterday.
- H. Goling, a prominent merchant of Portland, was in the city yesterday.
- H. O. Spear, a prominent farmer of Knappa, was in the city yesterday.
- C. R. Johnson, a prominent citizen of Chinook, was in the city yesterday.
- H. E. Keel of New York was among the arrivals in the city yesterday.
- J. H. Johansen of Seaside will leave tomorrow for a two weeks' business trip to California.
- B. E. Pague, a prominent attorney of Portland, passed through the city yesterday for Ilwaco on legal business.

- HOTEL ARRIVALS.**
- Occident.**
- S. M. Cooper, San Francisco.
  - Andrew Young, Youngs River.
  - J. R. Burke and wife, Cathlamet.
  - S. Hawkins, Portland.
  - H. Goling, Portland.
  - E. R. Ingles, Kansas City.
  - Jno. F. Uhlhorne, Portland.
  - P. P. Mellis, Portland.
  - W. S. Blackman, Portland.
  - W. M. Round, Portland.
  - M. Gorman, Cathlamet.
  - C. P. Hensinger, Portland.
  - Geo. C. Flanders, Portland.
  - G. L. Chandler, Portland.

- Parker.**
- L. Burns, Portland.
  - J. Johnson, Clatskanie.
  - E. M. Blackford, Clatskanie.
  - M. Dixon, Clatskanie.
  - B. Donley, Portland.
  - C. H. Warren, Cathlamet.
  - J. C. McMillan, Portland.
  - H. H. Klapp, Deep River.
  - Isaac Selmer, Deep River.
  - Tom Moore and wife, Pittsburg, Pa.
  - Chas. Woods and wife, Pittsburg.
  - Max B. Herman, New York.
  - Otto Erickson, Hammond.
  - D. Good, Castle Rock.
  - August Mattson, Deep River.
  - James Rustworth, Ilwaco.
  - Emil Bergson, Portland.
  - H. W. Brooks, Quinck.
  - L. J. Marks, San Francisco.
  - W. B. Hawkins, Ilwaco.
  - S. Berge, Port Townsend.
  - E. Johnson, Pullman.
  - A. Catlin, Portland.
  - J. H. Woodward, Portland.

Want ads in The Astorian always bring results.

**REMOVAL - SALE**

**WE MOVE ON JUNE 1st**

to our new quarters. In order to make moving easy we place on Special Sale our entire stock of Clothing, Men's Furnishings, Shoes, etc.

Goods Sold at Cost During the Month of May.

# CHARLES LARSON

WELCH BLOCK; 652 Commercial Street, corner 15th.

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# North Pacific Brewing Co.

# First National Bank of Astoria

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